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Frederick, MD 21701

July 22, 1980

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Mequon WI 53092

Dear Paul:

Without consulting me you informed two others that, with them, I am a charter member - which I am not - of your "reinvestigation" of the JFK assassination - which it is not.

You announce a conspiracy theorists' club and in advance limit its theorizing of conspiracies to three. To now I have refused to belong to any group of conspiracy theorists and I have not subscribed to any of the so-called newsletters serving similar purposes. I have nothing to do with conspiracy theorizing.

Your second charter member, Senator Schweiker, may recall that when he proposed four such conspiracy theories to me I told him that an approach based on conspiracy theorizing would get him nowhere and I then debunked all four that he postulated. He wound up so thoroughly befuddled by the intelligence agencies that his report withheld names that were in the public domain and he never did get around to the body of the crime.

Your third charter member, Congressman Stokes, knows that I was in open opposition to the acts and procedures of his committee and was responsible for much, if not most, of the public criticism of it. This was because his committee, rather than conducting a full and open investigation, undertook to put down conspiracy theorists and to equate all critics of the official account of the JFK and King assassinations with them. He resorted to star chambers to deter exposure of what his committee did. Allegedly this was to protect rights but it was a machine for violating them and shielding the committee from the criticism it deserved and required. By the time what was intended as the ultimate putdown of critics, the analysis of the Dallas police tape, had backfired, he had no choice but to try to use it to avoid total bankruptcy. By then he had wasted much of the largest appropriation in the history of congressional investigations and had come to the time of his self-assured funeral. His alleged investigation of the crimes and the executive agencies was so puerile he wound up their captive, as he had been all along, had in fact assured he would be, and he had not even established the integrity of the evidentiary specimens he had tested. With all that money and all that staff he had not found in the once-withheld official records what I had obtained by litigation. He wasn't even aware of the existence of photographs of the JFK assassination that were reported in records I had obtained months earlier by suing the FBI and were in the FBI's public reading room.

Were none of this and ever so much more like it true, you should know from our previous correspondence that I would not associate myself with your project.

And if that were not true, when I do not have time for my own work, I cannot find time for what I regard as at best counter-productive.

Sincerely,

cc: Sen. Schweiker
Rep. Stokes

Harold Weisberg